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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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MINERALS PROGRAM
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MAR 13 1991

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

March 12, 1991

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Ken A. Kluksdahl
Tenneco Minerals
P.O. Box 2650
955 South 1300 West #4
St. George, Utah 84770

RE: Repair of Damaged Process Ponds at the
Goldstrike Mine

Dear Mr. Kluksdahl:

On March 7, 1991, Mack Croft and Lyle Stott of my staff were informed of a blasting incident on March 6, 1991. As a result of the said incident, three process ponds sustained damage from falling or flying rocks. Specifically, flexible membrane liners in those ponds were apparently punctured, and floated.

In a meeting between your staff and my staff held on that day, it was concluded that damage was very extensive and the HDPE liners in the barren solution and fresh water makeup ponds were irreparable. This is the position we also take at this time. Leakage was pumped from the leak detection sump of the fresh water makeup and barren solution ponds. Also it was concluded that it would not be appropriate to discharge the content of these ponds to surface waters.

In view of leakage and extensive damage to the liners, further use of these ponds constitutes a threat to the ground water. Further evaluation was necessary to determine the integrity of the pregnant solution pond. Therefore, you must proceed to remedy the situation immediately, and eliminate any potential release of process fluids to the environment.

We request that a remedial plan including a time table for implementation, be submitted to us within five days of receipt of this letter. We believe that you must place top priority on eliminating the discharge of these materials to the ground water, even at the expense of disruption or cessation of normal operations.

Mr. Ken A. Kluksdahl

Page 2

March 12, 1991

Please be advised that we are continuing our review of circumstances which resulted in a discharge of process waters to surface and ground water which occurred prior to this blasting incident, and we will be responding to you separately on that issue.

If you have any other questions, please contact Mr. Lyle Stott, of my staff.

Sincerely,



Don A. Ostler, P.E., Director
Bureau of Water Pollution Control

DAO:lws/rvg

cc: Mr. Wayne Thomas, P. E., Southwest District Engineer
Mr. W. Dawson, Southwest Utah District Health Department
Mr. L. Braxton, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
Mike Keller, Esq., VanCott, Bagley, Cornwall & McCarthy

N:FMLPONDS.LWS
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